

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

Truth Racial Healing and Transformation or TRHT is a national and community-based process to bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism. Throughout the year there are opportunities to participate in TRHT circles. A TRHT circle is an opportunity to take action by coming together with diverse groups of peoples and institutions, intentionally listening, and unearth conscious and unconscious biases.

Social Justice Matters, the local non-profit Anti-racism organization in Scotch Plains/Fanwood that we supported with our March “share the plate” is encouraging us to participate in at least one of the local TRHT circles over the next few months. As the centerpiece of the TRHT Framework, the Circles, are meant to ground the various elements of the TRHT methodology in a compassionate and expansive forum for sharing personal truth to help begin the process of transforming hearts and minds.

The next TRHT circle meeting will be this Wednesday Aug 19th (details are in the Thursday Email Blast). I encourage you all to participate. Doing so will provide you with both an opportunity for personal growth and to help build a Beloved Community, fulfilling part of the commitment we made when we adopted the principle in May.

(I attended last month and plan to attend again on Wednesday. Please consider joining me this Wednesday August 19th.)

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.